

### **IN THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

#### **Listing of Claims**

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented system for virtually linking a plurality of unrelated database systems, authenticating core person data input into said plurality of unrelated database systems, and managing through business rules said core person data, the system comprising:

a person data repository for storing the core person data for all persons requiring visibility in any one of said plurality of unrelated database systems wherein said core person data comprises a person name and birth date identifier;

a controller module connected to said person data repository and arranged to apply a set of business rules for restricting access, input, and modification of said core person data by said plurality of unrelated database systems;

an access control module connected between ~~[[a]]~~ user interface interfaces of ~~any one each~~ of said plurality of unrelated database systems and said controller module wherein said access control module monitors said user ~~interface~~ interfaces for input, querying or modification of said core person data and imposes said business rules when an attempt is made to input, query or modify said core person data, thereby controlling access to the person data repository from any of the plurality of unrelated database systems; and

an authentication module connected to said controller module for authenticating as unique the addition of a person to said core person data by the person

name and birth date identifier;

whereby said core person data is authenticated and maintained for said plurality of unrelated database systems as a virtual relational database of the core person data.

2. (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 1 wherein said person data repository comprises a database of said core person data ~~connected to said business rules determinator~~ coupled to said controller module.

3. (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 1 wherein said person data repository comprises a relational database ~~consisting of~~ comprising at least a subset of databases associated with said plurality of unrelated database systems.

4. (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 1 wherein said authentication module utilizes a search algorithm to determine if said person exists in said person data repository wherein said search algorithm attempts to match said person's name, birth month and birth day with names and birth data already in the person data repository.

5. (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 4 wherein said search algorithm performs a ~~soundex~~ Soundex search of the name of said person.

6. (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 1 wherein said

business rules comprise a set of contextual rules for allowing and/or disallowing the access, input, and modification of a component of said person data in said person data repository by a user of any of the plurality of unrelated database systems .

7. (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 1 wherein said access control module comprises a program that is resident in the memory containing said user interface for said plurality of unrelated database systems but is apart from said user interface.

8. (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 1 wherein a system interface at each of the plurality of unrelated database systems is ~~connected~~ coupled to said access control module, said system interface creating a gateway between each of said plurality of unrelated database systems and said person data repository wherein said gateway translates the ~~a~~ protocol of each of said plurality of unrelated database systems to ~~the a~~ protocol necessary to access, query and modify said person data repository.

9. (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 8 wherein said gateway is based on the CORBA<sup>®</sup> protocol.

10. (currently amended) A method for authenticating person data to a plurality of unrelated database systems comprising a plurality of databases, the method comprising:

providing a person data repository ~~comprising~~ for containing the person data ~~wherein the person data repository is comprised of a subset of the plurality of databases for all persons requiring visibility in any of the plurality of unrelated database systems;~~

providing a controller module for monitoring ~~[[a]]~~ user interface interfaces of each of the plurality of unrelated database systems for a request to input new person data into any one the plurality of unrelated database systems;

providing an access control module comprising business rules for receiving a request to input the new person data from the controller module; and

applying the business rules of the access control module to restrict the input of the new person data into the plurality of databases if the new person data matches ~~the~~ person data already existing in the plurality of databases;

whereby the person data is authenticated to the plurality of unrelated database systems.

11. (new) The method of claim 10 wherein the person data repository comprises at least a subset of the plurality of databases.